

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 10 remain in the application with claims 1 and 10 having been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended hereby to eliminate the redundant claim language as noted by the examiner.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are clear and definite in their recitation of the present invention and meet all requirements of 35 USC 112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 102(e), as being anticipated by Van Steenbrugge.

As explained in the present specification, the present invention is intended to provide an audio data processing method and apparatus that can deal with reproducing audio data and decoding that audio data in the situation where the audio data may be, on the one hand, compressed audio data and, on the other hand, not compressed, PCM audio data. This is accomplished in the present invention by realizing that upon compressing audio data there is a small portion in between the successive compressed audio data words that does not contain any data at all, that is, zero data. Therefore, the present invention realizes that if the so-called zero data can be detected, then it can be determined whether the audio signal

is compressed data and not a PCM signal, in which there are almost no instances of zero data. Thus, upon detecting that such zero data exists, it is determined that the audio data is compressed audio data.

Therefore, according to the present invention, the system can switch over and perform the desired decoding upon a determination of the kind of audio data being reproduced.

These features of the present invention are now clearly recited in claims 1 and 10, for example.

Van Steenbrugge also relates to an audio reproducing system that is intended to reproduce audio signals both in a compressed state and also in the PCM encoded state. An input system is provided for permitting a selection by a user and to generate a selection signal, and the output signal includes an identification signal that indicates that the output signal is one of the first or second kinds of audio signals, such as compressed or PCM signal.

It is respectfully submitted that Van Steenbrugge does not show or suggest determining whether zero data continue for a predetermined period of time. On the contrary, as stated beginning at column 3, line 26 of Van Steenbrugge, in response to a selection made by a user via the keys, the CPU generates a control signal for the decoder that enables the audio decoder to select either the linear PCM encoded signal or the MPEG encoded audio signal, which is the compressed audio signal, from the audio signal output from the playback means.

Therefore, it is clear that the user using the keys


provided in the DVD player can select the kind of audio signal, that is, either PCM or compressed MPEG, to be output from the system.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Van Steenbrugge does not anticipate the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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